

MSG 153 - RED FD11 PAYLOAD SUMMARY

FREESTAR

MEIDEX continues with nominal ROI and sprite observations today. The dust forecast is tentatively hopeful. We received our first live digital downlink successfully during the Moon calibration yesterday, and analysis continues.

SOLCON continues to perform well, having completed 15 solar periods as of MET 09/17:00.

SOLSE was running a little cold on the last health check at MET 09/09:00, but reasonable given the cold shuttle orientation at the time. The heaters are operational.

CVX is just completing its 3rd critical period with all operations going well.

LPT had another 13 TDRS events and a MILA pass, which included a mobile IP test. The latest GPS navigation test appears to be the best run yet!

SPACEHAB

SPACEHAB subsystems are performing well. Adjustments to the SPACEHAB and Orbiter water loops, in combination with lower heat loads, have brought the cabin temperatures down several degrees.

CM2 SOFBALL activities continue with 10 of the 15 planned runs already completed.

MGM has realized some excellent science thus far. A small setback was experienced today when it was discovered that test cell C had been damaged by launch to the extent that it could not be used to support additional runs. MGM plans on using test cell D for all remaining runs.

Biopack IFM activities have not been successful in restoring nominal facility operation. The cooler, freezer, and incubator are now powered off, but in this configuration, the Biopack ground team can send commands and receive housekeeping data, and the glovebox is still functional. In order to limit the internal temperature of the incubator to a value below 30 C, the incubator door has been left open and the PI's have developed a protocol to obtain science from their experiments in these conditions. The centrifuges are set to zero and will remain in this condition to avoid any possible risk to the crew. It is believed that we can still obtain useful science results over the next few days from Bacter, Biokin and Ystres.

The testing of the third COM2PLEX loop design continues. Initial results have suggested several areas for future improvements in the loop design.

STARS has reported the hatching of a fish, as well as the successful emergence of a silk moth from its cocoon.